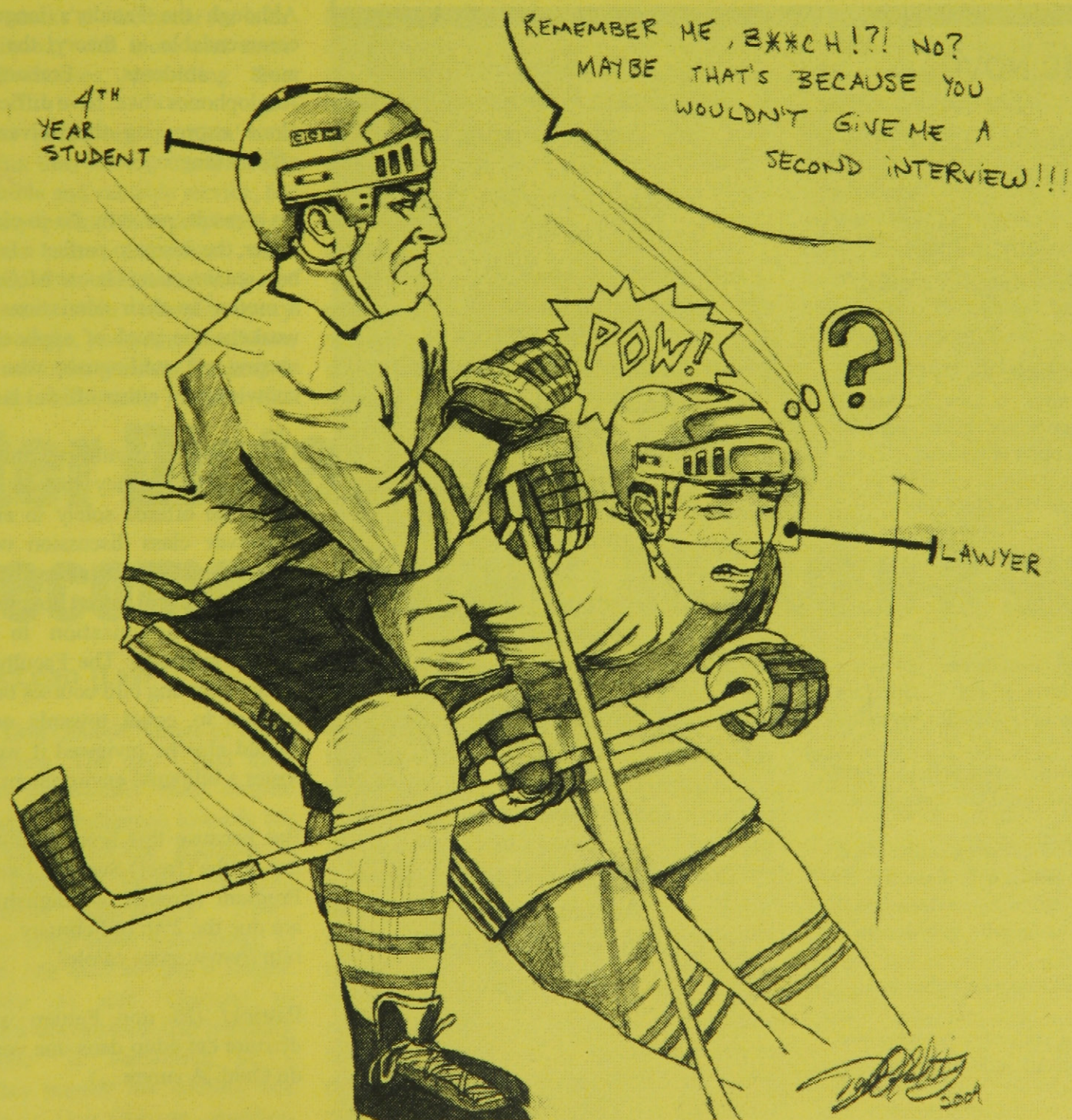


Quid Novi

McGill University, Faculty of Law
Volume 24, no. 15 - February 17, 2004

JUST A SAMPLE OF THE WONDERFUL
VIOLENCE YOU'LL GET TO SEE AT THE
LAWYERS V. STUDENTS GAME THIS FRIDAY NIGHT.



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QUID NOVI

3661 Peel Street
Montréal, Québec H2A 1X1
(514) 398-4430

quid.law@mcgill.ca
<http://www.law.mcgill.ca/quid>

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Envoyez vos commentaires ou articles avant jeudi 5pm à l'adresse: quid.law@mcgill.ca

Toute contribution doit indiquer l'auteur et son origine et n'est publiée qu'à la discrétion du comité de rédaction, qui basera sa décision sur la politique de rédaction telle que décrite à l'adresse:
<http://www.law.mcgill.ca/quid/edpolicy.html>.

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Editor's Note...

Newsflash: Faculty's Passive Bilingualism Policy Hurting Francophones, Graduates, Quality of Education.

Les faits: A class of 25 students. About 10 of them are graduates; the majority does not understand a word of French. Half of the other 15 students are Francophones, the rest are what the Faculty qualifies as "passive bilinguals, capable of understanding French and English in both spoken and written form" (a necessary requirement for admission). In this course students summarize required readings orally, followed by class discussions. Most francophone students summarize and comment in French, leaving non-Francophones pondering the meaning of their words...

Although the Faculty's language policy is commendable in theory, the reality is that most students, Francophones and Anglophones alike, have difficulty reading let alone expressing themselves in the other official language.

As a result, not only do in-class discussions suffer, the desire to perfect a language, said to be a reason many choose McGill, remains but a motive in their admissions essay. It also weakens the pool of applicants to McGill, scaring off unilinguals who have limited knowledge of either official language.

The Faculty should reform its "passive bilingualism" policy to one where courses would be offered solely in either language. This way class discussion would be more coherent and Anglophones and Francophones alike would be forced to practice oral and written communication in their second official language. The Faculty's inconsistent policy allowing bird courses but not language courses to count towards non-law credits should also be reviewed if we truly want to foster a bilingual environment.

But because this seems unlikely, here's the link to the (free!) Summer Language Bursary Program (French or English). Applications are due the 29th of February:
<http://www.cmec.ca/olp/>

Patrick! (Et non Fabien qui promet de détruire cet édito dans une version ultérieure du Quid. À suivre...)

P.S. Come to Coffee House! Sources say it will be the last sponsored one of the season...

Confessions of a Tchochke-holic

by Lindsey Miller (Law II)

Hi, my name is Lindsey, and I'm a tchotchke-holic.

It started off harmlessly. On my first day of law school, I was handed a bag of pamphlets, schedules and assorted trinkets. I didn't know then - how could I? - that this was my first introduction to offers that I couldn't refuse.

Clutching my treat bag, I made my way through the first few days of school. First coffeehouse: more free stuff. I was ecstatic. Free booze, free food, free party. A little paper napkin of snacks to take home for later. The trend continued, with more and more sponsored coffeehouses, providing free foodstuffs.

Up until this point, my 'problem' was under control. But then came... Career Day.

While a laudable and valuable service, for a student with my packrat-like propensities, Career Day is more hazardous than quicksand. Think of it - tables and tables of lawyers, burdened with complimentary highlighters, CD cases, notepads, portfolios, picture holders, and other wonders, wanting to distribute their branded wares. It was like

Christmas, except without the bother of having to think of what to give to others. I was in heaven, scoring enough school supplies to last me for a year. Who needs Staples when you can attend Career Day?

My feverish glee had barely dimmed when suddenly Civil Law Careers Day was upon us, followed swiftly by its sequel. Final exams, a period when handouts are usually at a minimum, were followed by boxes upon boxes of firm-sponsored Krispy Kreme doughnuts. I was hooked.

You see before you now the sad shell of a law student, glassy eyed and desperate. I compulsively scan the atrium, searching for a free bauble that I can take home and put in my hoard. When considering whether to attend a workshop or lecture, it is always the clarion call of free lunch that pulls me in. I fear that soon I will become a wasted shadow of my former self, cradling my McCarthy Tétrault calculator and calling it 'My Precious.'

But, I come to you today on the road to recovery. I have started setting limits to my stockpiling of knick-knacks: I will only take promotional material from the recruiting firms if I listen to their spiel first. In true

contractual form, by making our obligations mutual and complimentary, I may be encouraged to avoid my umpteenth McCarthy highlighter, and focus my efforts instead on the much coveted Ogilvy cereal (a girl has to eat, after all). Unlike smokers, there is no patch that will help me with my tchotchke cravings, although I have found that crunching down on Fraser Milner Casgrain breath mints is a soothing alternative to picking up yet another notepad emblazoned with yet another firm logo. At least I'm working through the objects I have, rather than seeking out new ones.

My message to you is this: admitting you have a problem is the first step. So, the next time you find yourself counting the number of highlighters that your friend picked up at Civil Law Careers Day and gleefully realising that you have two more, stop. Breathe deeply, tell yourself you already have more highlighters than you could ever use (hard to believe, I know), pull your Osler toque over your head, adjust your e-Carswell backpack, and run, don't walk, out of the atrium.

It will leave all the more cereal for me. ■

Obiter Dicta:

To Become a Knight, ACT Like a Knight

by Jason MacLean (Law I)

The novel Don Quixote admits of many interpretations. The one I find most congenial is twofold: that, despite Cervantes' inhumane negligence towards his own creation, his unrelenting attempts to humiliate the supposed knight manqué, Quixote succeeds nonetheless. How? According to the critic Mark Van Doren, to become a knight, one must act like a knight. Because Quixote so acts, Quixote so succeeds. Thus the connotation that typically attends "quixotic" is something of a misnomer. Neither tragedy nor comedy but sheer inspiration is Don Quixote, awaiting only Oprah's seal of sentimental approval.

Let us leave our knight for the moment

and ponder some more the last week and a half that was. The memo. Notwithstanding the scurrying and the faux-panic, I enjoyed memo time. I enjoyed the conversations about the law, not only about its present status but what it should and could be. I learned from my friends, not only about the subject of my memo, but about the other areas of law and policy under consideration in the other sections of the class. Walking and talking about the faculty, exciting - if ultimately fleeting - glimpses of the faculty's immanent potential were on cheerful and energetic display. That, and the all-nighter I pulled - good times.

It wasn't all good, however. To pick up on

John Haffner's point in these pages about legal education as training for hierarchy, you have to marvel at how well the firms insinuate themselves in our midst. For one, the letters they send to those they choose not to interview. I myself, incidentally, have not received such an offensive communication. Not, mind you, because of my irresistible appeal, but because I omitted to indicate the street number of my abode on my cover letters. Of the letters those of you have shared with me, though, the firms' discourse is instructive. These are not P.F.O. letters - the firms cannot afford to write those, and it is critical to underscore why paying that price would be too dear: the firms need us, ►

can't live without us. Need us, in fact, more than we need them. Think about this. There is enlightenment and power in this realization. There is freedom.

So the firms' letters are complementary to a fault. Yet the left hand that takes back what the right incautiously offered, for there are so few precious positions to go around. Sure, you have a great résumé, but do you really have what it takes to collate? For a whole summer? Not everyone can collate, you know. Many are called, few are chosen. Work a little harder, and call us back next year. Classic carrot and stick. Sound familiar?

Which brings me, however briefly, to the "paid advertisement" from a former law student and now lawyer whose name and firm I have either forgotten or which I never actually bothered to learn (I can't remember which). The shameless self- and firm-promotion was embarrassing in its bald - if not particularly bold - perversion of autobiography-cum-propaganda. But hearts be still, my animus is not corporate depredation on campus (though I would prefer that the career-day lackeys set up in the parking lot and not congest the atrium with their vulgar brochures). No, what saddened me was the pure boredom of the bildungsroman account of the agonizing choice between litigation and corporate law

(insert markedly pronounced yawn about here).

The desultory talk of firm letters, interviews, and "paid advertisements" also offered glimpses, and not so fleeting glimpses, either, of both our immanent and imminent potential, soon to be our reality if we acquiesce to its workings much longer.

It strikes me as I write this that it has been quite some time since I have railed, I mean really railed, against something, and so rail I must. But I approach the object of my outrage with not a little trepidation for fear I will alienate all but a handful of my colleagues. Why? Because here I must denounce that most offensive and vulgar of law school artifacts: the course summary.

I overheard a very intelligent upper-year student (for real, I actually mean this) whom I happen to know and genuinely respect mention that he was taking a course outside of the law faculty in which he had to really know the material. In law school, he explained (though no explanation is really needed) he has become accustomed to producing really nice sets of notes - nice documents in which he can readily find whatever he happens to need, the unspoken implication being that he did not necessarily need to know the contents of his summary, just their location.

This remark reminded me instantly of the

description a senior lawyer once gave me of his work - the production of really nice, really pretty documents. In both instances, in reflecting on how both these highly intelligent (and highly likeable) individuals approached the law, I could not help but lament: what a profound waste.

Whereupon I recalled the efforts of the Robot Pimp from "The Paper Chase," who sought but ultimately failed to reduce his course outline to the pith economy of but a single word. How could he have failed? The very word he was looking for stares anyone who has ever glanced at a summary straight in the face. Thus do I offer my summary of all extant summaries in but a single word: Boring.

Training for hierarchy indeed.

Which brings me back to our great knight, Don Quixote, who was thought mad to have left the creature comforts of his country house in search of a career that no longer existed, if it ever really did. Even in Quixote's time, chivalry was dead. The point of this? Read Don Quixote, it is a classic, and follow his lead. Cast away fear and cowardly conformity and set out on a journey, the nature and destination (which are irreducibly the same in the end) of which are ours alone to decide. Cervantes thought little of Quixote, but Quixote had other ideas. ■

Credit Card

by Edmund Coates (Alumnus II)

What to do about grading? The latest to bring this up was Jason MacLean, in the 27 January Quid Novi. Yet the issue comes up time and again at the law school. No concrete action follows. Perennial irritants are the dominance of easily mechanized 100% exams, and the miserly dispensing of "A"s (the grade which is seen, in some law student bluff, as the only one which does not mean a bit of a personal failing). These factors undergird a system that distorts students' approach to their education, and distorts their relation to their fellow students.

Any attempt to challenge this alienation, to tinker with the anxiety-fuelled engine of McGill law school grading, will only work if the initiative gets broad support among members of the faculty. The weightiest barrier to change is the symbolic investment of self-esteem that many faculty members have in

the grading system. The system continuously consecrates them as the Sun at the centre of all that really matters about the law school. This image will cause a bit of cringing on the part of students with a radical, or even just a humanist, bent. But practical action on grading needs to acknowledge its psychological and ideological realities (just you were wise to acknowledge the Mediaeval image which placed the Earth in the centre of the universe, if you appeared before the 17th century Inquisition).

A move towards more tailored, thought-through and textured assignments would require hiring more full-time faculty members. Improving the problem of over-reliance on 100% exams would mean finding substantial new money (and making sure that it is not mostly diverted to higher salaries for existing faculty or to greater faculty leisure). 100% exams are far cheaper for the law

school than less alienating, less crude, less disjointed educational tools. The marking of 100% exams can be concentrated into a short period of time, and routinised (and thus delegated, in a good number of cases, to hungry graduate students and others).

A better target for immediate attack is the grading scale itself. Any attempt to expand the number of "A"s, particularly in 100% exams, is likely to meet insuperable faculty resistance. Psychology and ideology would lead them to dismiss this out of hand, as "grade inflation". Yet their very reaction suggests a reverse strategy. The law school should instead introduce grade deflation, by abolishing "A"s and "A- 's".

Fairness would likely demand that the school phase-in changes. This would start, at best, with next year's entering class and follow them up their next 3 or 4 years of law school. Having two different sets of students, to which two different sets of grading practice apply, may slightly increase the administrative burden in the school. But this would not be nearly as complex as was the phasing-in of trans-systemia. Professors and administrators already deal with two ►

different sets of grading standards, since classes commonly combine undergraduate and graduate law students.

McGill already has a grading scale that requires explanation to outsiders, since it lacks the "A+" of most North American institutions. The abolition of the two other varieties of "A's" would simply further affirm the law school's distinctiveness. The law school would confirm that all its students are of quality and are beyond petty competition over labels. The school could still reserve a measured place for labels and honours. It could still confer one or two distinctions for each course, in order to structure the awarding of prizes and scholarships.

McGill law school's 100% exams combine, with its "A" psychology, to mirror an outside trend. Practice in today's intensifying "legal services industry" centres far too much on imitation, and seldom encourages its members to stand back, at least occasionally. It seldom encourages asking what is really going on in a situation. Trans-systemia at the law school seeks to revivify this sort of imagination. The law school needs to show further confidence in the life of the law, by a bold trimming back of the invasive coils of the grading system. ■

Addendum

by Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza (Law III, LALSA President)

La principale crainte que j'avais avant l'ouverture du Symposium était celle d'oublier de remercier quelques commanditaires. Comment font-ils aux Oscars? Certes, je n'allais pas recueillir un trophée mais tout de même les remerciements étaient de rigueur et la liste était longue (première leçon pour la prochaine demande de financement : des plus gros montants demandés à quelques entités seulement). Bref, à cause du trac j'ai opté pour un remerciement général et un remerciement particulier à la Faculté pour son soutien financier et logistique...

...je pensais faire mieux avec mes remerciements dans le Quid d'il y a deux semaines (sorry Fabien, je ne retiens pas les numéros*) mais malheureusement j'ai oublié de mentionner quelques personnes dont l'aide constante a été déterminante : Marie-Pierre pour ses fructueux coups de fils; vp-pr, Erica, pour son temps et énergie

dans la mise en marché de notre produit et ses leçons de marketing; Reynolds pour le crash course en financement d'événements; et le Prof. Lametti en tant que Directeur de l'Institut de droit comparé pour avoir été notre premier commanditaire! Je remercie aussi le personnel administratif de la Faculté pour les renseignements et les rappels prodigués - ils nous ont permis de prendre compte de détails importants. Entre autres, merci à Marie-Hélène, Julie et Thomas. Un grand merci aussi à Evan Light pour son assistance avec nos problèmes virtuels.

Les présentations du Symposium (et les biographies) seront bientôt disponibles au www.lalsa.mcgill.ca. ■

* NDLR: C'était le numéro 13, édition du 3 février. Non mais, qu'est-ce que vous deviendriez sans nous?

Contemporary Canadian Issues/ Questions contemporaines canadiennes

presents a series of events
Subject: Street Youth and the Law

Danistan Saverimuthu, CANADA25 - "Beyond the
Ballot Box; Engaging Young Canadians in the National Conversation"
Thursday Feb. 12, 4 PM, Rm. 202

Street Youth and the Law, Panel Discussion - Wednesday Feb. 18 - 5 PM,
Moot Court

See you Thursday, then?

by Akbar Hussain (Law I)

Quaff lurid cocktails
and get wilder like Penfield:
sponsored coffee haus.

"As Dean of McGill Law School" Contest Winner

Congratulations to
Jason MacLean (Law I)
for winning the As Dean of McGill Law School Contest!

Special thanks to all students who entered, and to Michael Hazan for a great contest!

Top Court Upholds Spanking Law

Corporal punishment should be legally acceptable and must involve only "minor corrective force of a transitory and trifling nature."

Canadian Press
Friday, January 30, 2004

OTTAWA --The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the so-called spanking law that allows parents to use physical force to discipline children, but has set legal guidelines aimed at ensuring reasonable limits.

In a 6-3 judgment Friday, the court rejected claims that the legislation, first enacted more than a century ago, should be struck down as a violation of children's rights.

The ruling offered guidance, however, to help lower-court judges draw the line between acceptable and unacceptable force.

The court indicated, for example, that it would not be reasonable to use corporal punishment for children under age two or over the age of 13. Nor would it be reasonable to use objects such as rulers or belts, or to strike a child on the face or head. The Court further held that a child's buttocks could not be rendered anything more than a slim shade of crimson following a good old fashioned session of discipline. Legal pundits have dubbed it the so-called "red cheek rule".

At issue was Section 43 of the Criminal Code, the latest version of a federal law that has been on the books in one form or other since 1892.

It provides that parents, teachers and other caregivers cannot be found guilty of assault for physically correcting a child -- as long as the force used is "reasonable in the circumstances."

Many people have, in fact, been convicted for going beyond what judges deemed to be reasonable.

But decisions were not always consistent, and opponents of the law argued it was an invitation to excess (excess being something the unelected and unaccountable Supreme Court knows nothing about) -- whether by abusive parents or by well-meaning ones who simply lost their tempers.

The general rule, set out in an fourteen step test with nine sub-steps by Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, is that corporal punishment should be legally acceptable and must involve only "minor corrective force of a transitory and trifling nature." Critics of the judgment noted the sultry Chief Justice does enjoy giving and receiving the occasional crimson bum herself, thus losing her judicial impartiality.

The law was challenged by the Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law, a Toronto-based children's advocacy group.

The foundation denounced Section 43 as discriminatory, an infringement of children's right to security of the person and a legal

endorsement of cruel and unusual punishment.

Joining in the anti-spanking campaign were the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Child Welfare League of Canada and other children's rights groups.

The federal Justice Department defended the law but argued it should be read as allowing only "mild to moderate" force.

Government lawyers said parents need some leeway in raising their children and should not be threatened with criminal charges unless discipline crosses the line to abuse.

Backing the federal position were the Coalition for Family Autonomy, a collection of conservative lobby groups, and the Canadian Teachers Federation.

The teachers said they didn't favour corporal punishment, but feared that if the law was overturned they could face charges merely for physically restraining an unruly student.

Next on the docket for Canada's Super Liberals in the Halls of Justice: can horses be appointed to the Senate?: thus indicating the Liberal Party's future plans for the soon-to-be unemployed Sheila Copps.

NOTE: "Additional" reporting by Chris Hynes (Law III). ■

Chandler en fête!

by Mark Georges (Law IV)

Last weekend marked the 2nd anniversary of the annual winterfest known as Chandler en Fête (Feb 12-15, 2004). If the name seems familiar, it is probably because you have heard about Chandler, a quaint Northern Québécois town, known especially for its amazing seafood and breath taking ocean views. However, Chandler has been in the news lately for different reasons, none involving its tourism industry. Last week, Tembec and SGF Rexfor said that Papiers Gaspésia would be hiring a bankruptcy consultant in relation to the over 200 million dollar deficit incurred at the

Gaspésia Paper construction site.

Background

-Chandler, despite being my hometown, has other things going for it. It is the site of the largest construction development plan in the province (Baie-James projects coming in a close second). Over 600 workers, representing 60 independent contractors were told on Monday that the site would be closed pending talks between government, union and management representatives.

-Tembec is an integrated Canadian forest products company involved in the production

of wood products, principally market pulp and papers.

-SGF Rexfor is a subsidiary of the Société Générale de Financement du Québec (SGF), whose mission is to carry out economic development projects, especially in the industrial sector, in cooperation with partners and in accordance with accepted profitability requirements.

Facts

-Chandler en Fête is a fun filled, winter extravaganza with games and activities for the whole family. Daylight hours are reserved for ski-doo rides to maple sugar camps, where kids can tobogan and adults can warm up at the tent covered polar bar where fried bologna sandwiches, cider and the requisite maple cones are served. Outdoor concerts fill the night with sounds and smells of merry-►

making as bands such as Kevin Parent and Bob Walsh take to the cozy open air stage on an ice covered lake. Headlining this year's events is the folklore band 1755 whose vibrant Acadian style of folk rock has kept Gaspesians rolling for years.

-President of the FTQ and Fonds de Solidarité, Henri Massé, has not commented on the latest turn of events in Chandler. Fonds de Solidarité is a major player in this project and has invested over 50 million dollars on the papermill throughout the 3 year modernization project. 65 more million are on their way.

-Initial investments on the Gaspésia papermill were projected at about 500 million dollars. Federal, Provincial and private investment were all in on the project that was supposed to revive the Coast and create over 400 jobs for the local economy. What happened was all the contrary. Construction contracts were given to the lowest bidders which happened to be contractors from Montreal and Québec City, cutting out local companies on bids, leaving them to scrap among themselves for the smaller, less specialized jobs. Since the FTQ is a major investor in the project, all companies working on the site had to be FTQ certified, creating chaos and time delays on every front.

-As it stands today, security guards are the only people getting paid on "le chantier fou de la Gaspésia". The whole area, which represents about 2 square kilometers, has been locked down. Every general contractor is required to pack up and leave until further notice, leaving behind much useless equipment, a handful of local personnel, lease payments, and a pocket full of nothing to pay for it all.

-In addition to the 500 million dollars initially projected, 200 more million are needed for the continuation and completion of this mega flop that the SGF would rather not talk about.

End Notes

So a lot of things are happening in Chandler this week. Inside sources have stated that the management of the project greatly resembles what took place in the early '70's at the Stade Olympique. Lightly, the same source noted that instead of contending with mafia interests, the Gaspésia is being ran into the ground by the FTQ, the new Québec mafia. Hopefully, residents of Chandler can forget yet another economic disaster over the weekend. But there is only so much a baglona sandwich can do to ease the pain. ■

The Quid is taking a week off too!

**You have until Thursday, February 26th at
5pm to submit your thoughts at
quid.law@mcgill.ca**

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for Montreal

Michel Pelletier

mpelletier@dwpv.com or 514.841.6455

44TH Floor, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto Canada M5X 1B1
1501, avenue McGill College 26^e étage, Montreal Canada H3A 3N9

Faculty Wants You to Save Trees

by Gord Cruess (Law I)

Don't worry: fighting Dutch Elm Disease, or any other fungus, blight or alien invasive species is not about to be put on the law curriculum (although I understand that S.N.A.I.L.S. are becoming an issue in Nahum Gelber, and worse, Coffee Haus). This is merely a follow-up to Molly Mimier's excellent piece about Vermont Law School that appeared in the Quid last week.

Like Molly, I was fortunate enough to travel to beautiful Mont. St. Hilaire for Environmental Law McGill's annual retreat. I highly recommend a visit there. One thing Molly mentioned in her article, and which ELM discussed at its get-together, was paper use in the Faculty. Particularly, we discussed one way in which we can all contribute to paper reduction-the double-sided printing of our written work.

OK, I know I've got you all really excited now. I admit that double-sided printing is about as riveting as disputes over common walls. But it's an easy way to tangibly lessen your paper use, and what's more, you'll find yourself spending less money in the process. And lest you think that it might somehow be frowned upon, never fear-your professors want you to do it. At the last meeting of Faculty Council, a resolution was unanimously endorsed that students should be encouraged to submit their assignments printed on both sides of the page, except where otherwise required by the instructor. So go for it. Exercise your franchise to print double-sided, and help the Faculty become a bit greener. ■

McGILL FACULTY OF LAW EQUITY•ACCESS PORTFOLIO PRESENTS:
LE VOILET ACCÈS•ÉQUITÉ DE LA FACULTÉ DE DROIT DE MCGILL PRÉSENTE :



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...AND the LAW**


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**Your Quid
will soon start looking for
fresh meat... Stay tuned!**

LET'S GET RID OF THE LIBERAL PARTY !

par Guillaume Lavoie (Law II)

La semaine dernière, une bombe a explosé au sein du Parti Libéral du Canada. Celle, que l'on a appelé la "mère de tous les scandales" a éclaboussé les personnes les plus haut-placées du parti. Que ce le pire scandale de l'histoire de la politique canadienne ou non, il s'agit de la découverte du pire poison qui peut contaminer une démocratie : la corruption. Le Parti Libéral a siégé trop longtemps au pouvoir. La rotation des gouvernements que l'on retrouve habituellement dans une démocratie protège habituellement de ce genre de chose. Mais voilà que la démocratie canadienne a vu un régime quasi-monarchique s'installer où le Parti Libéral règne en souverain sur le pays. Mais le souverain a pris goût au pouvoir et la retenue de nos politiciens a cédé sa place à un surplus de confiance. Jean Chrétien et ses bras droits ont cessé de craindre d'être délogés du pouvoir. Il n'en suffisait pas davantage pour que la corruption s'installe. Et voilà que des centaines de millions de dollars étaient tout bonnement donnés à des amis, sous la table, sans qu'aucune trace de ces transactions puissent être retrouvées plus tard.

Or, si les Canadiens étaient dotés d'une mémoire à long terme, ils réaliseraient que le scandale des commandites s'ajoute à une liste beaucoup trop longue. Le programme des armes à feu a coûté 1 milliard aux contribuables canadiens et n'est aujourd'hui bon que pour la poubelle. Les ministres ont été impliqués dans des conflits d'intérêts un après l'autre, incluant le Premier Ministre.

Alors, j'oserais croire qu'après tout cela, qu'une petite lumière s'allumerait dans l'esprit des gens et voir le Parti libéral de Paul Martin faire un plongeon à pic dans les sondages. Je ne peux pas croire que le peuple canadien va s'obstiner ainsi à garder au pouvoir l'auteur d'une telle corruption, d'une telle série de conflits d'intérêts, d'une telle série de non-respect des sujets de compétence provinciale et d'une telle centralisation arrogante et

unilatérale du pouvoir.

On entend souvent que la raison pour laquelle tant de Canadiens votent pour le Parti Libéral est qu'il n'y a pas d'opposition. Or, il s'agit d'un sophisme, car il n'y aura jamais d'opposition forte tant et aussi longtemps que les Canadiens voteront pour le Parti Libéral. C'est pourquoi je vous demande à vous tous d'avoir le courage de renoncer au statu quo, de renoncer à la confortabilité de la stabilité de voir le même gouvernement aller au pouvoir encore une fois et de voter pour un autre parti.

Ceux qui sont des idéalistes et qui vivent encore dans un monde imaginaire, votez pour le Nouveau Parti Démocratique. Pour les autres, ceux qui sont réalistes, le Parti Conservateur du Canada représente la solution à la crise canadienne. Ce parti a une tradition décentralisatrice, par opposition au centralisme fédéral. Un gouvernement conservateur assurerait donc le respect des champs de compétence provinciales. Les provinces cesseraient d'être un ennemi à abattre et seraient enfin considérées comme un autre pallier ayant les mêmes pouvoirs dans leurs champs de compétence respectif ; comme l'a reconnu jadis le Conseil Privé d'Angleterre. La corruption prendrait fin en détruisant les liens qui se sont forgés avec le temps entre l'argent et le pouvoir.

Mais pour que ce parti puisse remporter les élections prochaines contre Paul Martin, il est nécessaire qu'un chef capable de le battre soit mis à la tête de ce parti. Et je crois fermement que la candidate Belinda Stronach est la personne la mieux placée à cette fin. Elle représente l'opinion de la majorité des Canadiens qui ne sont pas autant à droite que la plus part des alliancistes : par exemple, contrairement aux alliancistes, elle ne va pas jusqu'à renier l'héritage trudeauiste. Car être conservateur ne signifie pas renier tout ce qui est d'héritage libéral. Elle est la seule qui pourrait réunir les deux partis puisqu'elle ne provient de l'aucun d'eux. Elle a affirmé

qu'elle réglerait le déséquilibre fiscal, ce qu'aucun conservateur ne s'est encore engagé à faire (et certainement aucun libéral). Elle partage les valeurs canadiennes d'égalité et de respect pour tous, faisant en sorte qu'elle est en faveur du mariage des homosexuels. Et bien entendu, elle possède du leadership. Avoir été à la tête d'une entreprise lui donne l'expérience nécessaire pour gérer un gouvernement efficacement. Le but d'une entreprise est d'être compétitif sur le marché international, de s'assurer de mettre en place des mesures sociales pour les employés et de rapporter des profits. Être Premier Ministre est la même chose : il suffit de remplacer " employés " par " concitoyens " et remplacer " profits " par " surplus budgétaires permettant de diminuer les taxes et impôts ". On dit d'elle qu'elle n'a pas d'expérience politique. Mais on oublie que c'est un avantage : ceux qui font de la politique une carrière ont tendance à oublier après un certain temps les idéologies qu'ils veulent défendre et à travailler que pour leur carrière. Belinda est déjà riche et puissante. Ce n'est donc pas pour elle qu'elle veut faire de la politique ; mais bien pour servir les Canadiens.

Je vous suggère donc à tous de devenir membre du Parti Conservateur avant le 29 février afin de pouvoir voter pour Belinda Stronach dans la course au leadership et de voter pour qu'elle devienne Premier Ministre du Canada aux prochaines élections. Pour devenir membre, ou si vous des questions ou des objections, il suffit d'aller au www.belinda.ca ou de vous présenter au kiosque qui se trouvera au SSMU le mercredi 18 février. ■

Guillaume Lavoie
Membre du Parti Conservateur du Canada
Membre de la campagne au leadership de Belinda Stronach
1-866-990-2004

Submit to the Quid!
quid.law@mcgill.ca

CAREERS WITHOUT BORDERS

FEBRUARY 16: INTERNATIONAL DAY

PANEL – 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (Atrium)

1. Mark Boldman, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
2. Elise Groulx, International Criminal Defense Attorneys Association
3. Kirsten Hillman, DFAIT
4. Peter Kirby, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin
5. John Peters, Export Development Canada
6. Simon Potter, Ogilvy Renault

Moderator: Daria Kapnik

GET TOGETHER WITH PANELISTS – 1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (Atrium)

FEBRUARY 18: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

SOCIAL JUSTICE INFORMATION BOOTHS – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Atrium)

LUNCHEON – 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mezzanine – Atrium)

PANEL: HUMAN RIGHTS CAREER PATHS – 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (Moot Court)

1. Annie Berthiaume, Nelligan, O'Brien, Payne (Union-Side Labour Law)
2. Anjali Choksi, Hutchins, Soroka & Grant (Aboriginal Law)
3. Catherine Duhamel, International Legal Resources Network (Prisoners Rights & International Human Rights Law)
4. Pearl Eliadis, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights Institutional Development)
5. Peter Leuprecht, UN Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights in Cambodia (Academic & International Humanitarian Law)
6. Jean-François Noël, International Bureau for Children's Rights (Children's Rights)
7. Veena Verma, Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish (Civil Litigation/Class Proceedings, Labour Law and Human Rights)

Moderator: Audrey De Marsico

COFFEE BREAK – 2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (Atrium)

NETWORKING SESSION – 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. (Atrium)

*** Sign up downstairs (near Pino's) by February 16 to personally interview human rights practitioners working in NGOs, government, private firms or the academic field!

PANEL: "STREET YOUTH & THE LAW" – 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Moot Court)

FEBRUARY 19: JUSTICE DAY

CLASS PRESENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

INFORMATION BOOTH – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Atrium)

PLENARY – LUNCHEON – 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. (Moot Court) Sign up at the CPO!

1. Mark Berlin, National Executive Director, Outreach and Partnerships
2. Nancy Boillat, Executive Director, Corporate Services Directorate
3. The Honourable Irwin Cotler, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
4. Johanne D'Auray, Senior Regional Director, Quebec Regional Office
5. David Lucas, General Counsel, Immigration Directorate
6. Richard Starck, General Counsel, Federal Prosecution Service

GRADUATE STUDENTS' EVENT – 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (Moot Court) Sign up at the CPO!

1. Elisabeth Eid, Acting Director and General Counsel, Human Rights Law Section
2. Kathryn Sabo, Acting Senior General Counsel, Public Law Policy Section
3. Richard Starck, General Counsel, Federal Prosecution Service

Moderator: Lionel Smith, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research

SUPPORT YOUR HOCKEY TEAM !!!

(AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE OPPONENTS)

The McGill Law Graduation Committee
and The Young Alumni Advisory Board
present

The Third Annual

Thrilla at McGilla

Law Students v. Law Alumni

Hockey Game

**Friday, February 20, 2004 at 22h45pm
McConnell Winter Arena**

Support your colleagues as they play against the alumni team
and chat with lawyers from different firms who will be at the
game and at Thomson House for the after-game party!

Tickets cost \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door.
Tickets on sale in the atrium this week!

Clerking at the International Court of Justice 2004-2005

The Faculty has just finalised an agreement with the International Court of Justice whereby McGill students can apply to participate in the ICJ's Judicial Assistants Programme. Judicial assistants work directly with judges, helping them in particular in the preparation for hearings and the drafting of judgments. The posting lasts nine months, starting in September 2004 and ending in May 2005. Work takes place at the seat of the International Court, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. The McGill intern will receive a stipend from the Ministère des relations internationales du Québec to cover living expenses from September to May, including travel costs and insurance. For a full description of this internship opportunity, and information on the application process, please visit the CPO website at:

http://www.law.mcgill.ca/cpo/careerlink_news_viewPosting.htm.

Please note that application packages are due on Wednesday, March 3rd, 2004.



The McGill Law Journal



cordially invites you to our

Annual Lecture Series

“OUTLAWS OR INLAWS?”

SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY”

featuring

John Fisher

Former executive director of EGALE Canada
(Equality for Gays & Lesbians Everywhere)

Time: Friday, March 5, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.

Place: Moot Court, New Chancellor Day Hall

A lunch reception, sponsored by Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt, will follow the lecture.

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Our students and young lawyers are looking forward to meeting you and chatting with you **Thursday, February 19**, at the Stikeman Elliott Coffee House.

We hope to see you there!

Stikeman Elliott LLP

www.stikeman.com